

Macedonia Update

September 2009

World Bank Ranks Macedonia among Top 10 Business Reformers for 2010

Climbing 37 spots to the rank of 32, Macedonia is one of the top regulatory reformers in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Poll for 2010. Widespread reforms over the past year have tackled challenges to starting a business, employing workers, registering property and attaining construction permits. Additional financial reforms were also made to improve protection of investors, facilitate getting credit and streamline the tax payment process.

[Full Report](#)

EU Visa Liberalization Expected for Macedonia in 2010.

Members of the European Parliament on Wednesday endorsed the European Commission's recommendation to annul visa requirements for citizens of Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. Macedonia has met all requirements and its leaders are expecting a positive result when the resolution goes to a formal vote in the European Parliament next month. The plan would see Macedonian citizens able to travel visa-free throughout the Schengen Area of the European Union as of January 1, 2010.

Article: [Visa liberalisation - concrete step towards EU membership](#)

Macedonian Parliament Adopts Final EU-Mandated Bill

Earlier this month, the Macedonian Parliament passed the final of three laws required for progress with its bid for European Union Accession. This bill, the Law on Amending and Supplementing the Law on Public Servants, was preceded by a bill altering the financing of political parties and a new Law on Parliament. With completion of these reforms, Macedonia is anticipating a positive assessment in the European Commission's annual progress report, due to be released on October 14. Leaders are hopeful that this will lead to the declaration of a date for Macedonia to begin EU accession negotiations.

Article: [Macedonian lawmakers pass public servants law](#)

President Ivanov Proposes Joint Deployment to Afghanistan for Macedonian Army and Vermont National Guard

President Ivanov met last week with the head of the Vermont National Guard, Major Gen. Michael Dubie. Mr. Ivanov announced his plan to deploy 80 Macedonian troops to Afghanistan and proposed to embed those troops with the upcoming Vermont National Guard deployment. Although the relationship between Macedonia and Vermont began in 1995 as a military partnership, President Ivanov also used his visit to deepen business, cultural and educational ties with the state. President Ivanov's agenda included meetings with Governor Douglas and local business leaders.

Article: [Macedonian president visits Vermont](#)

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